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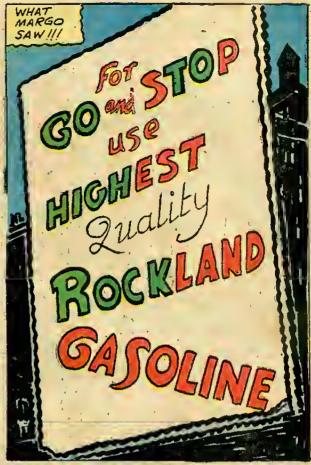
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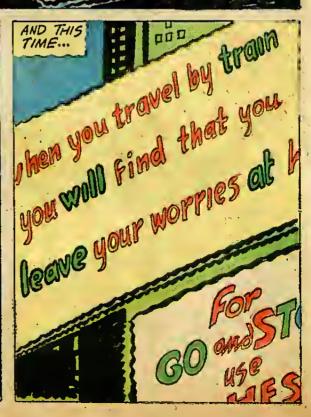












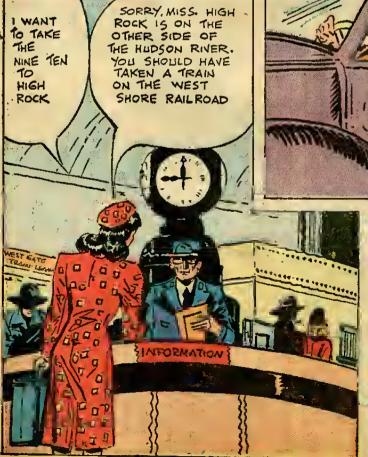


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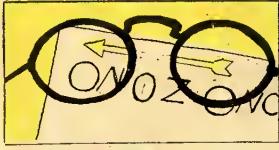














IT IS TOO LATE TO STOP THE CROOK-LOADED CARS AS THEY TAKE THE WRONG ROAD... OVER THE CLIFF!!!



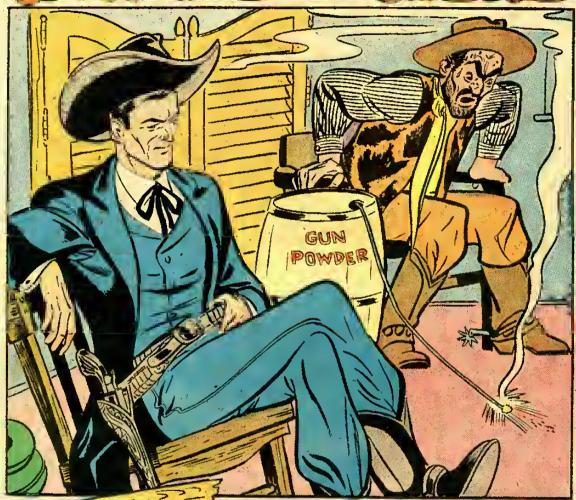






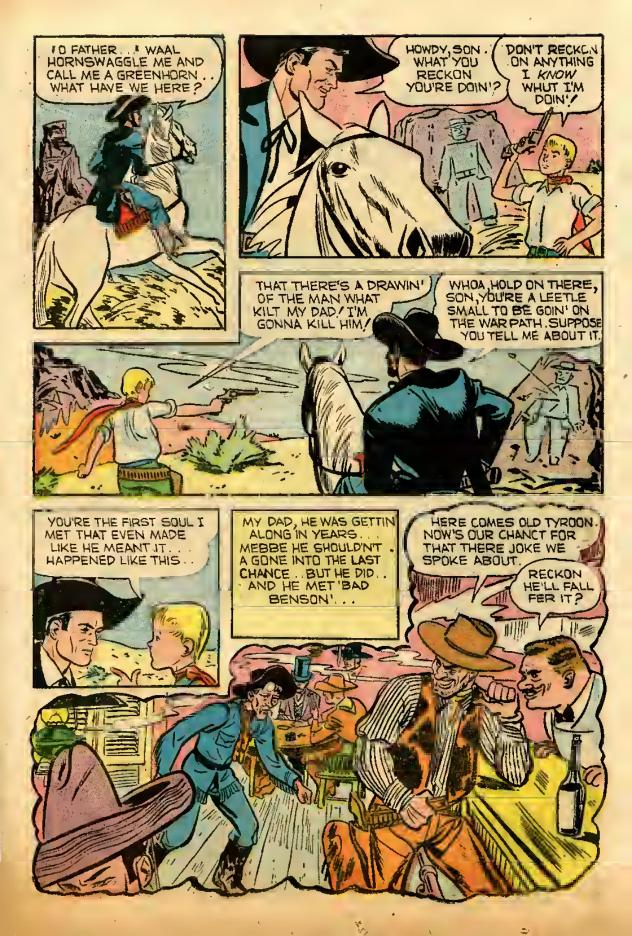


THUS RUIN COMES TO BARTHAN'S CLEVER SCHEME OF HELPING EVIL-DOERS DISAPPEAR TO ESCAPE TUSTICE. THOSE "DEAD MEN LIVE" TO PAY THE PENALTY WHICH THEY TRIED TO ESCAPE. THEY TOO ARE TO LEARN THAT "THE WEED OF CRIME BEARS BITTER FRUIT" FOR THE SHADOW, MASTER OF TUSTICE, HAS PROVEN IT III.



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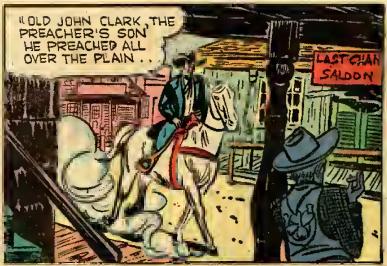


























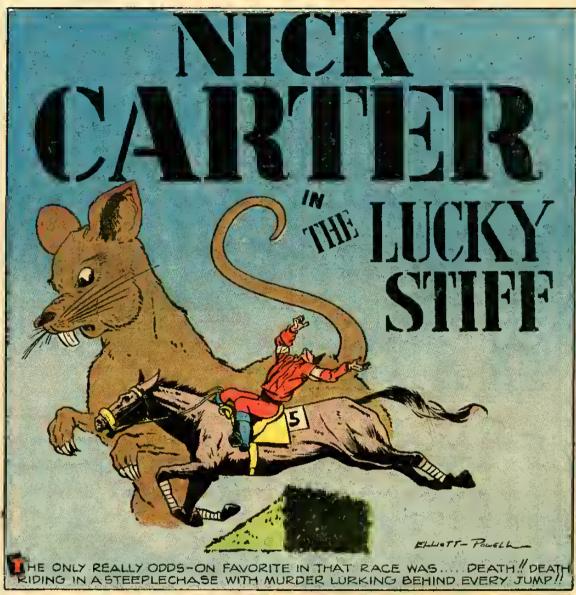




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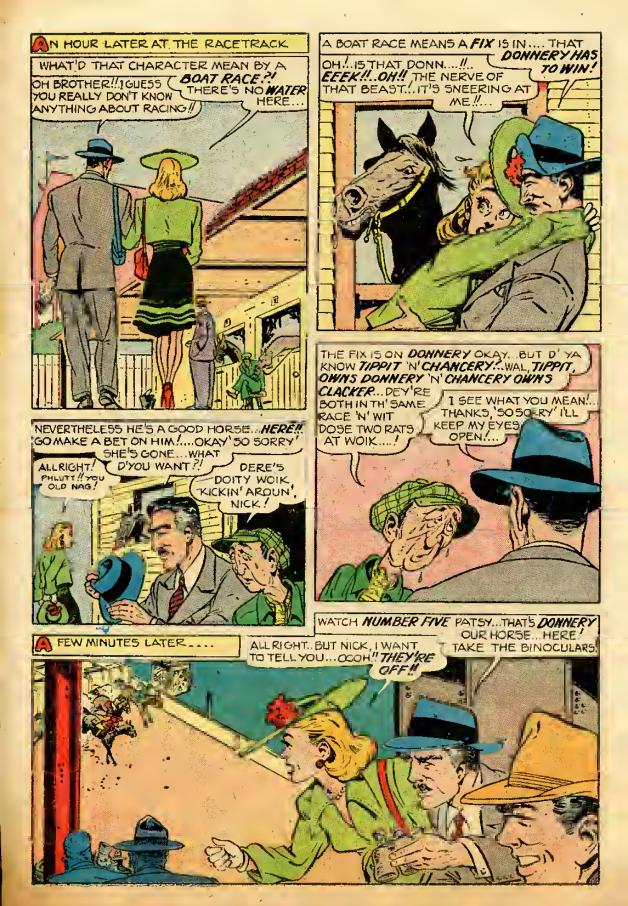
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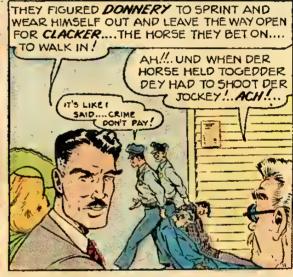
















INNER CIRCLE

"LIFE LINE"

"The whole block was ringed by police in their blue uniforms. Nick asked one of the cops what was up and the cop explained that a jewel robbery, daring in the extreme, had just been pulled. The crook had beat it with his accomplice and headed up a flight of stairs." Chick was talking to the Inner Circle group.

"A detective assigned to guard the gems which belonged to a Mrs. Vaster, this private op, took no chances and put in a call for help.

"The result was what we saw. The building was completely encircled. There was no earthly chance, we thought, for the crooks to get away. Nick asked who the crooks were and the cop said that one of them, the leader was a well known character called Hot Ice. The other, the accomplice, was unknown to anyone. The police had had a glance at the crooks when they pecked out of a top story window."

Nick took over at this point and said, "Knowing that Hot Ice is a shrewd and shifty operator I couldn't see him planning a crime of these dimensions without some kind of an out."

"STRAIGHT UP?"

"We knew that the police were going up the stairs to the roof of the ten story building. Hot Ice and whoever was with him had already gone on up to the roof. How he could expect to escape that way was the problem. We looked up. The next building was well over a hundred feet away. He couldn't expect to jump that far. . . Chick wondered whether Hot Ice might be expecting a helicopter to, pick him up. It wouldn't have been a bad idea at that. But look as we would there was no sign of anything remotely resembling such a thing in the air."

"It was just then," interrupted Chick that we saw the two men's faces looking down from the roof. The police must have been right behind them, by then, for we heard a shot and both of the white faces disappeared from view. Nick snapped his fingers and said, 'Where have I seen that man with Hot Ice before?' He looked puzzled. While he was brooding about this, there was a flurry of shots and then, Nick said, 'C'mon.' I followed him as he ran towards a building nearby.

"I must confess," Chick shook his head woefully, "that I didn't have the vaguest clue as to what Nick had on his mind. He ran into an elevator where a sleepy operator snapped to attention as Nick snapped, 'Roof and get the lead out!' The boy jammed the control all the way over. We were up on the roof almost before it takes to tell it."

"DREADFUL SIGHT!"

"We ran out on the roof and I must confess that I have never seen such a bizarre sight in my life. Picture it. It was night. There was just the light of the moon which before had revealed the faces of the crooks. But now, by one of those vagrant shifts of the clouds, the roof was almost dark. Out, seemingly walking on the air, was a man. He seemed like some strange creature out of mythology, for he had two heads!

"And then, before my eyes had a chance to re-adjust to the sudden darkness, that darkness was split by the flaming red of a pistol! Nick and I threw ourselves flat on our faces on the gritty gravel that they sink into the tar on roofs.

"It took a second for us to realize that the floating two headed thing wasn't shooting at us. It was firing back at some police who had shown themselves on the roof that it had just quitted!

"I heard Nick whisper, 'Take it easy... I don't think they know we're here. If they don't we have to grab them for I don't think the cops have seen through their gag yet!" We found out later that the police were just as astounded as I was when they saw the singular sight float out across the air.

"All this time," Chick continued, "the bizarre figure with the two heads and strangely mishapen body was coming closer. The moon decided to be kind to us for a change and then it was that I saw what Nick had already deduced; because he had recognized the face of Hot Ice's assistant! But there was no time to do anything about it for at just that second the figure reached the edge of the roof we were on. It seemed almost to dissolve into two men. You see one man, Hot Ice had been crouched piggy-back on the back of the other man.

"They stepped onto our roof with their hot guns in their ready hands. Nick and I were hidden in a patch of darkness that clung to the base of a chimney. We could hear them as Hot Ice said, 'Didn't I tell you it was a lead pipe cinch?' The other nodded in agreement and they walked closer to where we waited crouching."

"DEADLY DUEL!"

Nick chuckled, "Really I don't think I have ever seen two such surprised faces as theirs when we suddenly appeared, seemingly from nowhere flying right at them. I grabbed Hot Ice's gun hand and we wrestled near the edge of the roof for it. Out of the corner of my eye, I could see that Chick had been luckier than I. His leap had knocked the gun from his opponent's hand, they were in a jumbled mass on the roof. I forgot about Chick as a sudden spin brought the man I was fighting and myself closer to the edge of the roof.

"I had the upper hand to a degree because Hot Ice still hadn't recovered from the shock of our appearance. His face was distorted with rage. Primarily I suppose, because escape had been so close. I'm sure he had it all planned as to how he was going to spend the loot from his robbery. His gun hand flashed up in a dangerous are and I bent all my strength to prevent him from firing. I bent his wrist back at the last second and a shot rang out.

"The sound was a help for us, because it brought the cops pounding out onto the roof. They had followed our trail up into the building.

"It was really an anti-climax. Here I had been all prepared for a fight to the death and the cops saved me before the fight even got interesting."

Chick said, "But don't let's pretend that we weren't glad to have them there. I never felt such muscles as the guy I was fighting had."

"Well naturally. Of course he would or Hot Ice wouldn't have hired him." Nick said.

"AÈRIAL FLIGHT!"

This time it was really annoying the way Nick and Chick grinned at each other. Beef called out in high dudgeon, "All right you two Cheshire cats, what's so funny? How could a guy or two guys walk across the open air?"

"Because of the nature of Hot Ice's man's trade. I recognized him from the street and realized what the escape gag had to be! You see, I had seen him in a local carnival only a week before!"

The members of the Inner Circle were if anything, more puzzled by this.

"Don't you see," asked Chick, "there was a reason why Hot Ice was being ridden piggy-back. He was riding the other man. There was a wire stretched from building to building! It was this that the tight rope expert walked across!"

"No wonder they were grinning when they came," said Beef as the meeting came to an end. "Of all the dopy ideas for a crook to pull!"

Chick said, "It wouldn't have been dopy if they'd gotten away with it would it?"

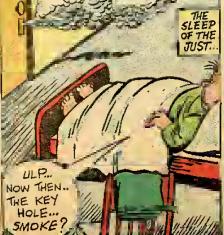
Beef said grumpily, "Well no . . . but : . . how could we have guessed that?"



ISN'T TOO SURPRISING ..

VAMPIRE .

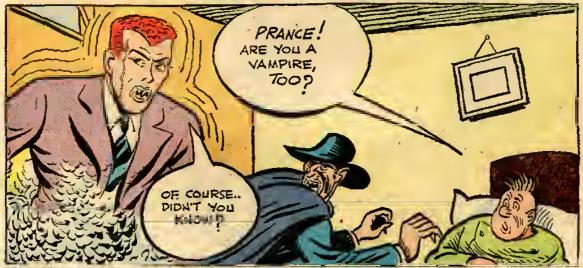
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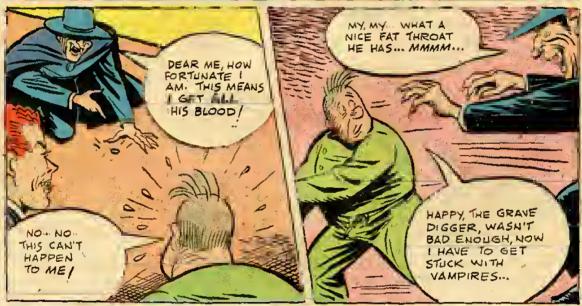










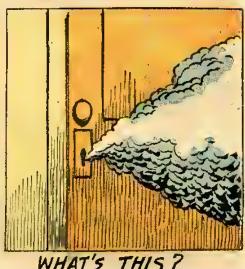








ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR ...



WHAT'S THIS?



















BUT .. NEXT MONTH ... PRANCE AND FLATTY WILL FIND OUT THAT NIGHT-MARES CAN COME TRUE ! WAIT AND SEE ...





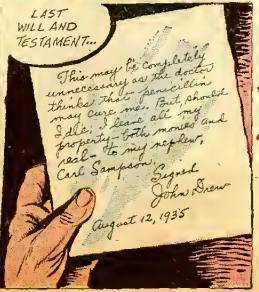










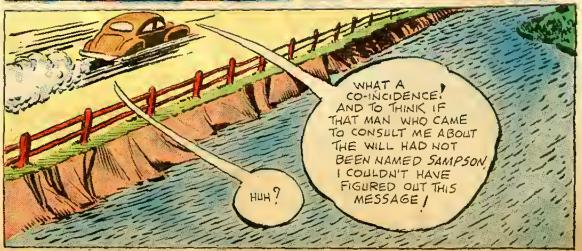


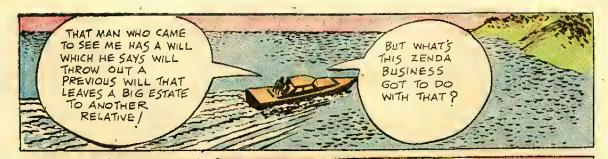


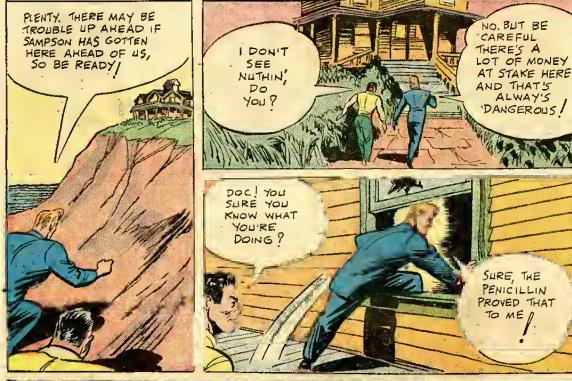












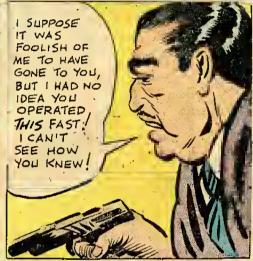








































































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